



# FARM NEWS

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July 9, 1948

**AAA COMMITTEEMEN RISE TO TOP ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS:** Albert J. Loveland, the new Under Secretary of Agriculture, is the second former AAA farmer-committeeman to rise within recent weeks to a top spot in government service. The other is Elmer F. Kruse, now Assistant Administrator for Commodity Credit Corporation, Production and Marketing Administration. Both men have been connected with AAA (later PMA) ever since the programs have been in effect.

Mr. Loveland was elected to membership on the Jackson township (Iowa) committee back in 1934. In 1937, he was elected a member of the Bremer County committee. Two years later he was named farmer-fieldman. In 1941, he went to the Iowa State AAA Committee as chairman, where he served until his appointment December 8, 1947, as director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, PMA, in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Kruse was elected chairman of the original AAA Committee in Auglaize County (Ohio) in 1933. After that, he served successively as State AAA Fieldman for Ohio and as Chairman of the Ohio State AAA Committee from 1936 to 1947, when he went to Washington as a PMA Administrator's Fieldman, in charge of program field operations in the North Central States.

Mr. Loveland began farming in 1914, and since 1927 has operated his 256-acre farm near Janesville, in Bremer County. Mr. Kruse has operated his general crops and livestock farm in Auglaize County for 30 years.

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**1949 ACP FUNDS AUTHORIZATION UPPEd:** Plans may now be developed for a 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program offering farmers almost twice as much assistance for conservation practices as was available under this year's program.

For the current fiscal year, the Agriculture Department Appropriation Act sets aside \$150 million for the 1948 program, including administrative expenses. This was the amount Congress authorized last year for developing the 1948 program. Congress this year has authorized the development of a 1949 program amounting to \$262.5 million.

Other items in the appropriation act include: Soil Conservation Service, \$45,048,000; Farmers' Home Administration production and subsistence loans, \$75 million; Rural Electrification Administration loans, \$400 million; Research and Marketing Act of 1946, \$13,850,000; School Lunch Program, \$75 million.

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BEST SOIL LOST FIRST BY EROSION: The cream of the cropland goes first, when land is washed or blown away, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee. It is the top few inches of soil that usually hold the humus and fertility which produces crops. In most soils "the deeper we go the less humus and fertility."

A heavy rain on a cultivated field where the soil is unprotected breaks up the surface soil and the finer and lighter particles are carried away with the water that runs off, the chairman explains. This finer and lighter material is the humus and fine particles of soil that hold most of the fertility. The coarser sand and gravel that settle back on the land first are the least fertile.

The action of wind is about the same. The lighter and finer particles are carried away while the coarser particles and less fertile soil remains.

This emphasizes the importance of holding the topsoil. Damage by gullies and "washes" is more spectacular but the most widespread damage, says the chairman, is that done by sheet erosion that "skims the cream" off the land.

Evidence of sheet erosion are found in the muddy water that runs off during the storm and in the pock-marked field with its little hummocks of soil which were protected during the storm by pebbles or leaves and which stand up above the rest of the soil after the storm is over.

As the chairman explains, "because it is the best part of the land that has been washed away figures showing tons of earth moved by erosion only tell part of the story. The ton of soil that was taken by erosion may be worth two tons of the soil that is left.

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FARMERS URGED TO FOLLOW ACP SPECIFICATIONS: Farmers of \_\_\_\_\_ county who are cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program are urged to follow through on their indicated intentions to carry out conservation practices -- and actually complete the practices. \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the county ACP committee, says that every year some farmers fail to complete practices or fail to meet specifications in the practices they do carry out.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ explains that the county committee has the responsibility of seeing that funds used to assist farmers in carrying out conservation practices are used to obtain the maximum of soil and water conservation. Assistance is given to help a farmer build a dam only when the dam meets specified slopes and dimensions. The same is true of other practices.

Some farmers fail to qualify for assistance because they didn't understand what was required. The committee doesn't want any farmer to carry out practices and then find that assistance cannot be given because the practices fail to meet specifications.

Farmers also are reminded of their responsibility in furnishing acceptable evidence of conservation practices carried out. Measurements, price slips, analysis tags, or whatever is required should be obtained at the time the material is purchased or the practice carried out. A little attention to these matters now, said the county chairman, will save time and money later on, and only in this way can the nation be assured of maximum conservation.

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# FARM NEWS

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August 6, 1948

**FARMER COOPERATION NEEDED TO SUPPORT GRAIN PRICES:** Effectiveness of the 1948-49 price support program for wheat, corn and other grains covered by the Government support program depends on the cooperation of farmers themselves, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota committee of the Production and Marketing Administration.

No farmer needs to take less than the support price for his grain if he will avail himself of the provisions of the price support program, Mr. Kasper explained. But it is up to the individual farmer to use the program before it can be effective in supporting prices for him.

Both loans and purchase agreements are available to support the prices of wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye and flax. Where a farmer needs the money, he can obtain a loan at specified rates providing the grain is properly stored. Under the purchase agreement provision, the farmer specifies in the agreement the quantity of grain to be supported. He holds title to the grain and may sell it on the open market if he wishes. But under the terms of the agreement, the Commodity Credit Corporation stands ready to accept any quantity of the grain up to the quantity specified in the agreement and pay the support price for it. Acceptance of the grain by CCC is subject to grade specifications as outlined in the purchase agreement.

This year the combined crop of corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye and grain sorghums is expected to produce 6,444 million bushels. That is a billion bushels more than last year and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  billion bushels more than the pre-war average. Considering corn alone, storage will be needed for about 600 million bushels.

With little prospect of additional terminal and country elevator storage, it is up to farmers to provide the additional storage, Mr. Kasper said. Loans will be made on grain in acceptable temporary storage on farms. Action by farmers to provide permanent storage for their grain also is urged by Mr. Kasper, since grain stored on farms is a stabilizing factor in supporting prices. More farm storage means that farmers will be able to spread marketing over the year instead of overtaxing marketing facilities at harvest time.

(Include paragraph covering local conditions.)

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**CRAWLEY HEADS PMA PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION PROGRAMS:** William B. Crawley, Chairman of the Alabama PMA Committee, has been appointed to succeed the late Dave Davidson as Assistant Administrator for Production, PMA. Mr. Crawley will also serve as Acting Director of PMA's Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch.

Born in Alabama in 1893, Mr. Crawley has been actively engaged in farming all his life. He still owns and operates land which was farmed by his father, producing livestock, cotton, peanuts, corn and other crops.

Mr. Crawley first entered public service in 1933 as an AAA community committeeman in Pike County. He was appointed to the Alabama AAA State Committee in 1935, and has served as Chairman since 1938.

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TIME TO THINK OF DIRT-MOVING ACP PRACTICES: As soon as crops are off the land and machinery can be arranged for, farmers of (Name) County will be going ahead with dirt-moving agricultural conservation practices, says (Name), chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He advises farmers of the county to begin making arrangements for carrying out these practices if they haven't already done so. There may be no difficulty in obtaining power machinery for dirt-moving practices and technical help may be available but it is better to be sure, said Mr. (Name). To be eligible for assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program, these practices must meet program specifications. Farmers planning to carry out these practices should know what the specifications are or make arrangements for help from the county ACP office.

Practices which do not have prior approval or do not meet specifications are not eligible for Agricultural Conservation Program assistance. This can be avoided by carefully checking plans with the county ACP committee, Mr. (Name) advises. For all practices, including the construction of dams, reservoirs, and drainage ditches, definite specifications have been set up so that the completed practice will be effective in conserving soil and water.

Where the farmer doesn't have the machinery, early arrangements with someone to do the work is recommended to avoid postponement of needed jobs.

It is not too early to visit the county ACP office or to talk to a community committeeman about dirt-moving practices to be carried out this fall, Mr. (Name) advises.

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COVER REDUCES RUN-OFF: The value of vegetative cover as a protection against erosion, run-off and floods was again emphasized in the study made of the watershed which produced the Columbia River flood, that took more than 40 lives, made 60,000 homeless, and caused property damage estimated at \$200,000,000.

The Forest Service watershed technicians found ample evidence that damage to lands, improvements and property on the upland watersheds would have been far less severe, and that considerable water would have been held back until after the flood peaks had passed, if millions of upland acres in the basin had not been previously deprived of their plant and forest cover.

Evidence of this was seen from the air in observation flights over the watershed. As late as June 14, about 15 days after the flood peak, timbered areas in the uplands were seen to be still blanketed with snow while adjoining burned over sections were snowless. In many instances, burned and denuded north and east slopes, though normally cooler, had lost all their snow, while timbered south and west slopes were still snowbound.

Grass and trees are nature's way of holding the water and soil. When the vegetative cover is gone the land is left unprotected. The water that is needed to grow more cover runs off taking the soil with it. So there is neither water for the vegetative cover nor soil in which to grow it.

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# FARM NEWS

August 13, 1948

**GRAIN LOANS DEPEND ON STORAGE:** Although loans are available to support the farm price of (appropriate grains), they cannot be made unless the grain is stored properly, \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, told farmers this week. Details of the loan program, together with specifications for proper storage, may be obtained at the county AAA office, located at \_\_\_\_\_.

Providing enough storage for a record crop of all grains has become a major problem for the Nation. Preliminary surveys indicate the country is 800 million bushels short of enough storage space for the 1948 crop. Officials point out that every bit of the large crop is needed and none should be allowed to spoil through improper storage.

There is little chance to expand country and terminal elevator storage, so if the crop is all to be put under cover it will have to be stored on the farms, said Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. If farmers will make their storage requirements known instead of waiting until too late, it is possible that the problem can be met, the chairman said. He urged all farmers who have grain to store to be alert to the problem and not depend on country or terminal elevator storage which may not be available when the grain is harvested.

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**FLAXSEED PURCHASE AGREEMENTS APPROVED:** Farmers in (Name) County will be able to obtain purchase agreements, as well as loans, as a means of protecting the price on their 1948 flaxseed crop, said (Name), chairman of the (Name) County Agricultural Conservation Committee. Applications for either loans or agreements may be filed at the county AAA office.

Agreements at the loan rate -- \$6 per bushel for U. S. No. 1 grade, Minneapolis basis -- will be available to producers in North Dakota from harvest through December 31, 1948.

Under purchase agreements, producers may sell their flaxseed at support prices to the Commodity Credit Corporation, within the 30 days following the maturity date of the loans. Loans mature in North Dakota on demand, but not later than April 30, 1949.

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**SOIL CONSERVATION AND DINNER:** The conservation of our soil and water resources has to do with what we eat -- our bread, our milk, and our eggs. It has to do with flood control, and farm income, and business on Main Street. It is not just a terrace here and a few acres of grass somewhere else. It is doing what has to be done to keep our land from washing away and blowing away -- to keep it productive, now and in the future.

In this way, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA Committee, summarized the purpose and objectives of the Agricultural Conservation Program as well as the entire conservation effort of the United States Department of Agriculture.

He called attention to the Department's conservation program in the Missouri River Basin as an example of the tremendous conservation job that must be done and of how various programs can contribute toward reaching a common objective.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently announced a long-range multiple-purpose agricultural program for the Missouri River Basin to support the "Pick-Sloan-Plan." This program is to include the work of the Forest Service, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Production and Marketing Administration, Farmers' Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Farm Credit Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, Agricultural Research Administration and the Extension Service.

Included in the program are plans for conservation on individual farms to fit into the whole pattern of controlling erosion and floods. Some of the land most subject to erosion hazards will be seeded to permanent grass or trees. Another part of the program will be to construct terraces and farm on the contour. Dams back on rangeland and on farms will support the larger dams on the river. All of these conservation practices and others will help meet the over-all conservation problem in the Missouri River Basin.

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ACP OPEN TO ALL FARMERS: The Agricultural Conservation Program is open to all farmers and all farmers should make plans now to use the program next year for their most pressing conservation needs, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee. Every farmer -- as a custodian of the soil -- has a responsibility to the nation to help protect the nation's most valuable natural resource and through the program he gets the help of the nation to get this essential job done.

While actual signing up in the 1949 program will not come for several months yet, the chairman explains, the remaining months of the 1948 season are a good time to start conservation plans for 1949. In that way farmers can be sure to take full advantage of the program before the closing sign up date next season.

The State PMA Committee has received the national outline of 1949 practices and with the help of the Technical Committee is preparing the State program which will be the basis of the program for farmers of \_\_\_\_\_ county.

Because some farmers are not aware of the seriousness of the conservation problem and often because they do not understand the purposes and provisions of the Agricultural Conservation Program they are not cooperating to the fullest in the national effort to save the soil, the chairman states. There is a program and an elected committee of farmers to administer the program in every agricultural county in the United States and all farmers can get the benefits of the program.

The locally elected farmer-committee in \_\_\_\_\_ county is made up of \_\_\_\_\_, chairman; \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, vice chairman; and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, active members. The county office is located at \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

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# FARM NEWS

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NORTH DAKOTA  
PMA COMMITTEE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

September 10, 1948

**PRICE SUPPORTS AND CONSERVATION:** Consumers as well as farmers benefit from the price support and soil and water conservation programs administered by farmer-elected committeemen in every agricultural county in the United States.

William B. Crawley, Assistant Administrator for Production and Acting Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, backed up this assertion by showing how both consumer and farmer gain from these programs. Speaking to farmers, farm leaders and committeemen from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota in a conference at St. Paul, Minnesota, August 31, he said there is a mistaken idea that price supports are responsible for high prices.

He pointed out that parity — the base for determining price supports — is tied to the prices of things the farmers as well as other consumers have to buy. When the prices of these things go up the parity level goes up with them but not ahead of them. Price supports for most supported commodities is 90 percent of parity, which is 10 percent below an even break. A number of commodities produced on the farm are not supported. Beef is one. Lamb is another. Then the price of many commodities are above support levels and therefore are not affected. The commodities supported are among the better buys at the grocery store. He called attention also to the spread between what the farmer gets and what the consumer has to pay and said that in many instances if the farmer got nothing the consumer still would have to pay a fairly high price.

On the other hand, with farmers protected from price collapse they have not been afraid to produce abundantly. Consumers have gained from this abundance. Abundant production has prevented prices of farm products from going even higher.

Consumers have gained through the Agricultural Conservation Program which has been in operation for the past 12 years in that the conservation practices carried out by farmers cooperating in the program have helped to make possible the large harvest this year and for the past several years. The conservation practices which farmers are carrying out on farms which comprise two-thirds of the Nation's farm-land are the greatest assurance consumers can have that we can continue to fill the grocery shelves, he said.

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**BACK TO WHERE GULLIES START:** The next time you notice a gully cutting across a field, stop long enough to realize how far back that gully goes. It goes right back to the shelves of your grocery store. Not only is it eating away the topsoil of a farm but is taking cans of peas, corn and tomatoes from the shelves of your grocery store. It is taking beans and potatoes and flour from the bins and lamb and pork and beef from the meat counter. That gully is eating into your food supply. And the food supply of those who come after you.

Too often we fail to realize the significance of such things as gullies cutting their ways across a field or muddy water on its way out to the ocean, says chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

People from town may notice the gully and the ugly way it cuts into a field but how many of them realize that it has anything to do with them. It may be recognized as erosion but erosion is a farmer's problem, they may say.

Too few of us realize that that gully -- and thousands and thousands of other gullies -- are eating away the source of our food. Topsil is the most valuable natural resource we have and gullies are wasting that resource. All of us depend on the soil and all of us should be concerned about the loss of that soil.

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program the Nation cooperates with its farmers in the building of terraces, contour farming, the construction of dams and other practices which keep gullies from cutting across the land. In this way the interest of each person in the country is being protected.

Then, too, it should be realized that a gully is a sign of advance breakdown of soil. There has been depletion and a breakdown of **the soil** structure in most cases before the gully started.

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**FARM STORAGE -- GOOD BUSINESS:** Providing enough farm storage to take care of the grain crop is good business -- both for the farmer and for the country -- says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration committee. For the farmer it means stabilizing his market by not having to "dump" his crop on the market at harvest time and it means price support provisions become effective. For the country it means the saving of food and feed and grain in good position and not concentrated in a few central places. This is particularly good in the case of feed grains. They don't have to be shipped into a central elevator and then shipped back again.

But this year with the record-breaking crop of grain in prospect it is essential that farmers have enough storage to take care of the crop. Every effort should be made to store as much of the crop on the farm as possible to avoid congestion and waste at country and terminal elevators.

Mr. Kasper said that every farmer who has grain to store should know that price supports depend on getting the grain into suitable storage. Loans cannot be made unless the grain is protected by adequate storage. Purchase agreements also depend for their effectiveness on proper storage because the Commodity Credit Corporation will accept only good grain at price support levels. And since deliveries to CCC cannot be made until next spring that means the grain must be in good storage.

Then by having the grain stored on the farm it can be sent to market in an orderly manner and without loss. When grain is farm-stored, there is not the pressure of market gluts to force prices down to very low levels. Facilities for handling can be used more economically. It makes for more orderly marketing all along the line, said the State Chairman.

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CORN LOANS AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS IN COUNTY: North Dakota is one of the States where prices on the 1948 corn crop will be supported by means of Government loans and purchase agreements, says J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration.

Altogether, loans on farm-stored corn will be available in 23 States. Purchase agreements will also be available in these States, as well as in other States for which rates will be established.

Prices for 1948 corn will be supported at 90 percent of the corn parity as of October 1, 1948. Both loan and purchase agreement programs will be administered through County Agricultural Conservation Committees.

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